

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A chemical moiety comprising the polymeric reaction product of (i) a polyelectrolyte ~~carbon-carbon double bond-containing monomer~~ of poly(diallyldimethylammonium chloride) and (ii) a biological agent recognition element -substituted polyelectrolyte ~~carbon-carbon double bond-containing monomer~~ of poly(diallyldimethylammonium chloride).

Claim 2. (cancelled)

Claim 3. (original) The chemical moiety of claim 1 wherein said biological agent recognition element is selected from the group consisting of chemical ligands, antibodies, antibody fragments, oligonucleotides, antigens, polypeptides, glycolipids, proteins, enzymes, peptide nucleic acids and polysaccharides.

Claim 4. (currently amended) The chemical moiety of claim 1 wherein said polymeric reaction product is of (i) a ~~carbon-carbon double bond-containing monomer~~ of poly(diallyldimethylammonium chloride) and (ii) a biotin-substituted ~~carbon-carbon double bond-containing monomer~~ of poly(diallyldimethylammonium chloride).

Claims 5-20. (withdrawn)

Claim 21. (currently amended) A kit for the detection of biological agents comprising:

a fluorescent polymer; and,

a chemical moiety of claim 1 ~~comprising the polymeric reaction product of (i) a polyelectrolyte carbon-carbon double bond-containing monomer and (ii) a biological agent recognition element-substituted polyelectrolyte carbon-carbon double bond-containing monomer.~~

Claims 22-23. (withdrawn)